

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants' Election

Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I (claims 1, 2, and 4), drawn to modified PQQGDH, for further prosecution.

Discussion of the Restriction Requirement

The subject application is a U.S. national stage application based on International Patent Application PCT/JP04/12508. The Office alleges that the inventions defined by the claims of Groups I-V do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.2 because they lack the same "special technical features."

However, Applicants note that the claims of Group I and the claims of Groups II-V are sufficiently similar that the search and examination of the claims of Group I would likely overlap the search and examination of the claims of Groups II-V. As a result, the Examiner would incur no undue burden in examining the claims of Groups I-V at the same time. See M.P.E.P. § 803 ("If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner *must* examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." (emphasis added)).

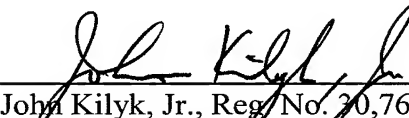
In view of the foregoing, Applicants request that the requirement for restriction be withdrawn and that the claims of Groups I-V be examined together.

In any event, upon the allowance of an examined claim, Applicants request the rejoinder and examination of any withdrawn claims that depend on, or otherwise contain all of the limitations of, an allowed claim.

Conclusion

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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